

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF NEBRASKA**

**STRATEGIC PLANNING GOALS**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Critical Function</b>	<b>Key Result Area</b>	<b>Goal</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Manager</b>
1999	Adjudication & Case Management	Timely Disposition of Cases	By June 30, 2001, reduce median time to disposition of criminal cases from 9 months to 6 months	As of 12/31/05, median time is 9.3 months.	Magistrate Judge Piester, Magistrate Judge Thalken, Magistrate Judge Gossett
	Adjudication & Case Management	Timely Disposition of Cases	By June 30, 2001 - reduce median time to disposition of civil cases from 11 months to 8 months	As of 12/31/05, median time is 9.8 months	Magistrate Judge Piester, Magistrate Judge Thalken, Magistrate Judge Gossett
	Adjudication & Case Management	Timely Disposition of Cases	By June 1, 2002, secure Congressional approval for converting the fourth district judgeship from a temporary judgeship to a permanent judgeship.	Regular meetings continue to take place with our congressional delegation regarding the need for a fourth judgeship	Judge Bataillon
	Records Management	Paperless Filing	Opportunity for electronic case filing by June 1, 2001. Pilot program by June 1, 2000.	Goal achieved in 2003.	
	Jury Management	Reduce Non-Utilization of Jurors	Reduce number of jurors not selected or challenged to no more than 25% by June 30, 2000.	Goal achieved. The percentage of jurors not selected or challenged has decreased from 28.6% in 1999 to 9.9 in December 2005.	

Year	Critical Function	Key Result Area	Goal	Status	Manager
	Administrative Management	Governing Bylaws and Elimination of Duplication	Court will adopt bylaws of governance by January 1, 2001.	Goal achieved. Governance order adopted in 2002 (revised in 2004).	
	Administrative Management	Governing Bylaws and Elimination of Duplication	Reduce duplication in procurement functions and services by January 1, 2000	Goal achieved. Clerk and Probation began sharing a procurement position in 2000.	
	Education	Congressional Delegation	All judges, as a group, will meet with our Congressional delegation by August 2000. By August 2000, at least one judge will meet with each Congressman or Senator and his/her assistant who handles judiciary matters.	Goal achieved. Judges have met their goal of annually meeting with as many members of our Congressional delegation as possible.	
2000	Administrative Management	Diversity	In three years, 20 percent of the court's staff and chambers' staff, excluding judicial officers, will be drawn from under-represented groups, such as African American, Hispanic, Southeast Asian, or Native American.	Our "under-represented" percentage has increased from 8.5% in 2000 to 11.8% in September 2005.	Judge Bataillon

Year	Critical Function	Key Result Area	Goal	Status	Manager
	Adjudication and Case Management	Consent Docket	<p>By June 2001, magistrate judges will reach a consent docket of 25 civil cases per magistrate judge and maintain such docket numbers until January 2002, whereupon the goal will be reevaluated.</p> <p>Magistrate judges will take 50 percent of all Rule 11 guilty pleas by January 2001. No judge is obligated, however, to refer his/her Rule 11 guilty pleas to a magistrate judge.</p>	<p>Goal achieved. Magistrate judges placed on wheel in January 2004.</p> <p>Goal achieved. Magistrate judges are now handling more than 50 percent of the guilty pleas for many of the judges.</p>	
	Education	Community Education	Over next two years, the court will sponsor programs on the law for high school students in Omaha, Lincoln and North Platte. The program will be expanded to fifth and sixth graders.	"Open Doors to Justice," programs, along with many tours, were conducted in Omaha, Lincoln, and North Platte in 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, and 2005.	Judge Strom
	Investigation and Supervision of defendants and convicted offenders	Alternatives to Detention/ Supervision	By January 2002, the court will contact community organizations to develop two additional alternatives to detention/supervision designed to assist Hispanic defendants.	Don Ranheim: "This is an ongoing process - not always successful - but we attempt to maintain contact with Hispanic agencies so that when we need their services we are prepared."	Don Ranheim

Year	Critical Function	Key Result Area	Goal	Status	Manager
	Records Management	Long-Term Storage of Electronic Media	By January 2002, the court will adopt a policy that addresses the following questions: 1) How long do we need to keep electronic data?, 2) How should it be classified, and 3) How should it be preserved/stored?	<p>The AO abandoned the PACER Archive Project and started an Interim Archive project. The AO plans to complete bankruptcy's program first, followed by district and appellate. In summary, pertinent parts of the case file (case # judge, attys, parties, etc) will be kept on the local server (for search purposes), but the rest of the case information and documents will be moved to an archive server.</p> <p>An IT Efficiency Committee was formed in March 2006. The Committee's goal is to eliminate unnecessary and duplicate data and documents and reduce redundancies in data input and collection.</p>	Judge Bataillon and Denise Lucks

Year	Critical Function	Key Result Area	Goal	Status	Manager
2002	Administrative Management	Administrative Services	Study the pros and cons of restructuring administrative services (such as information and computer systems, human resources, budgeting, and procurement) across functional lines in the Clerk of the District Court's office, the Bankruptcy Clerk's Office, the Probation Office, and the Pretrial Services Office.	Goal achieved. District Court Clerk's Office, Probation Office, and Pretrial Services Office consolidated administrative services in 2004.	
	Administrative Management	Lincoln Bankruptcy Judge Position	The court will continue to look at filling the Lincoln bankruptcy judge position every year, with the expectation that the position, if not filled earlier, would be filled in January 2006.		Judge Mahoney
	Administrative Management	Court Reporter Plan	We will develop a plan for court reporters that reflects a judicial commitment to the plan, including the issue of supervision of court reporters.	Goal achieved. Court Reporter Plan adopted by the Nebraska Judicial Council in November 2002.	

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	Adjudication and Case Management	Criminal and Civil Dockets	<p>Create a new docket, collapsing the Omaha and Lincoln dockets, for cases in which the State of Nebraska is named a defendant and that docket will be implemented in January 2003. Thus, Omaha judges will draw civil cases that involve the State of Nebraska as a defendant just like Lincoln judges.</p> <p>Study the pros and cons of collapsing the Omaha and Lincoln criminal and civil dockets so that there is only one civil docket and only one criminal docket for both Lincoln and Omaha.</p>	<p>Goal achieved. In January 2003, the Nebraska Docket was created.</p> <p>Goal achieved. In July 2003, the court decided to combine the Omaha and Lincoln civil dockets by expanding the Nebraska Docket to include the following types of cases: 1) civil cases involving the USA as plaintiff; 2) social security appeals; 3) pro se plaintiff cases (excluding 2255 motions); and 4) bankruptcy appeals.</p>	
	Adjudication and Case Management	Video Conferencing in Criminal Cases	If the law permits, allow the United States Marshals Service to develop a pilot project to allow video conferencing in criminal cases.	Goal abandoned. Study completed in 2003. While the proposal was lawful, the court determined that due to lack of funding, we would take no further action.	

Year	Critical Function	Key Result Area	Goal	Status	Manager
	Jury Management	Parking for Jurors	Provide safe, secure, and convenient parking for court users, most particularly jurors.	Goal achieved. In 2003, specific parking garages were identified and recommended to jurors for their use.	
	Jury Management	One Trial/One Call for Jurors	Study whether we should adopt a “one trial/one call” jury system in which a juror appears in the courthouse only once.	Goal achieved. The court decided that we should not implement a “one day appearance” policy for jurors. However, in the fall of 2002, the judges agreed to excuse jurors after they had served on one jury trial.	

Year	Critical Function	Key Result Area	Goal	Status	Manager
2003	Administrative Management	Docket and Local Rules Committee	Created committee to: 1) redraft rules; 2) oversee status of rules on a regular basis and suggest amendments; 3) harmonize local rules with standing or general orders; 4) develop and oversee procedures governing the use of magistrate judges; 5) develop procedures for the efficient interaction of the bankruptcy and the district court; and 6) review on a periodic and consistent basis the district court's docket and, where appropriate, suggest changes in procedures, including, but not limited to, assignment procedures	Goal achieved.	
	Jury Management	North Platte Jurors. Reduce Number of North Platte Sessions.	Reduce North Platte jury sessions from six to four weeks and hold court in North Platte four times per year.	Goal achieved.	
	Administrative Management	Budget	Create Standing Budget Committee	Goal achieved. A Standing Budget Committee was created in 2003. The purpose of the committee is to oversee the budgets of the Clerk of the District Court, the Probation office and Pretrial Services office.	
	Administrative Management	Fifth District Judge	Seek authorizing legislation for a fifth judgeship and to see that authorizing legislation is passed no later than November 1, 2007, with the understanding that the fifth judgeship be in Lincoln unless the state of the docket clearly establishes it should be elsewhere.		Judge Bataillon